

## Message Text

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62

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 FRB-02

XMB-07 DRC-01 /140 W

----- 075493

R 211921Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 4760

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV, PINT, HO

SUBJECT: GENERAL LOPEZ' PRESS CONFERENCE ON GOH PLANS

1. GEN LOPEZ APPEARED IN NATIONALLY BROADCAST PRESS CONFERENCE NIGHT OF DEC 19, IN WHICH HE ANSWERED MANY QUESTIONS AND GAVE SOME, BUT NOT MANY, DETAILS OF WHAT NEW DEVELOPMENT PLAN WOULD OFFER. APPEARANCE WAS FOLLOW-UP TO PRIVATE MEETING WITH PUBLISHERS AND MEDIA OWNERS ON DEC 17.

2. MAIN EMPHASIS OF HIS REMARKS SO FAR AS PRIVATE SECTOR IS CONCERNED WAS HIS STATEMENT OF DEC 17 THAT GOH HAS NO INTENTION TO DAMAGE PRIVATE ENTERPRISE, WHICH IT CONSIDERS TO BE "DECISIVE FACTOR OF DEVELOPMENT."

3. HE AGAIN DEFINED DEVELOPMENT PLAN AS MOSTLY AIMED AT RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND RATIONAL EXPLOITATION OF THE FORESTS. PRODUCTIVE LAND WOULD NOT BE CONFISCATED IN ANY WAY,  
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BUT UNEXPLOITED LANDS WOULD BE PENALIZED "EVEN IF IT

IS MY OWN." THE GENERAL CRITICIZED IRRESPONSIBLE  
WASTAGE OF HONDURAN FOREST RESOURCES BY "FOREIGNERS."

4. HE DID SPECIFICALLY REPLY TO ONE QUESTION, SAYING  
THAT PLAN DID NOT INCLUDE NATIONALIZATION OF BANKS.

5. WITH REFERENCE TO DECREE 92, WIDELY CRITICIZED AS  
"GAG LAW" FOR CENSORSHIP, GENERAL IMPLIED IT WOULD NEVER  
BE APPLIED TO JOURNALISTS NOR MEDIA. HE PLEDGED TO HAVE  
MONTHLY MEETINGS WITH THE PRESS FROM NOW ON.

6. AS TO SALVADOR, HE STATED THAT "WE CANNOT CONTINUE  
WASTING TIME IN NEW TALKS WITH SALVADOR UNLESS THEY ARE  
BASED ON CONCRETE DISCUSSION PLAN."

7. COMMENT: TALKS WERE AIMED AT CALMING DOWN WILD  
RUMORS ABOUT POSSIBLE EXTREMIST PROVISIONS IN NEW  
DEVELOPMENT PLAN. BOTH APPEARANCES ARE BEING FAVORABLY  
COMMENTED ON BY MEDIA AND BY PRIVATE BUSINESSMEN.  
SANCHEZ

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## Message Attributes

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